

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
PY 42 FUNDING–CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016  
6:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** M. Evette Brantley, Co-Chair; Milta Feliciano, Co-Chair; Nessah Smith, Scott, Burns, Aidee Nieves  
*Richard Salter, Sr. joined the hearing at 6:15.*  
*Alfredo Castillo joined the hearing at 6:46.*

**STAFF:** Ginne-Rae Clay, Deputy Director OPED, City of Bridgeport  
Tara Petrocelli, CDBG Administrative Coordinator

**OTHERS:** All representatives who addressed the Committee in regard to their applications for CDBG funding. (See list of organizations and requested amounts below).

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Feliciano called the public hearing to order at 6:10 PM.

She reviewed the procedures of the hearing to all those present.

**Liberation Program**

Mr. Michael Mulcaney came forward to speak about funding for a security camera system and related cameras for their facility on Mill Hill Avenue. Liberation serves over 800 recoveries per year.

Co-Chair Brantley asked where the facility was located to which the answer was 395 Mill Hill. Council Member Burns asked how the dollar figure was arrived at to which the answer was that an assessment had been made.

**Blessed Sacrament Church**

A male representative came forward to speak about this church which has been in Bridgeport for 100 years and which serves families with its food pantry and family events.

Co-Chair Brantley asked if they have a separate dinner program to which the representative answered that they lack the facilities, but want to do that. Council Member Burns asked how many meals they serve to which the representative answered there are 350 registered clients in addition to non-registered clients.

## **Refocus Outreach Ministry**

A male representative came forward to speak about his ministry which helps women in the Bridgeport area redirect their focus from addiction toward becoming productive members of society. Funds are needed for permanent rental assistance and supportive services for HIV/AIDS clients.

Co-Chair Brantley asked who does all medication management to which the representative answered that they partner with SouthWest for medication and testing. Co-Chair Brantley then asked about the housing locations to which the representative answered Taft Avenue, Ellsworth Street, Bretton Street, and Laurel Avenue. Council Member Salter, Sr. asked how many clients they serve to which the answer was four, although they can serve a maximum of five. Council Member Salter, Sr. also asked whether the ministry owns the houses in which they place clients to which the answer was in the negative, but it subsidizes clients.

## **Riverview Condo Association**

Ms. Pamela Flynn came forward to speak about the repairs such as the rehab of bilco doors because of flooding, windows and decks which are needed for the 40-year-old buildings. She said that 50 % of the unit owners are elderly, living on fixed or limited incomes, and cannot afford the increasing expenses.

Co-Chair Brantley asked about the market value of the units to which Ms. Flynn answered \$88,000 for a one-bedroom.

## **Bridgeport Tabernacle Community Development Initiative**

Ms. Shirley Williams came forward to speak about the services provided by this initiative such as food pantry, soup kitchen and several emergency relief services. Funds would be used to continue the street outreach/homeless prevention program

Council Member Nieves asked how people can get in touch with them to which Ms. Williams offered calling 211, in addition to contacting DSS and DCF. Council Member Salter, Sr. asked how many people come to the food pantry to which the answer was 75-100 every Wednesday.

## **CT Coalition to End Homelessness**

Ms. Micky Haley came forward to speak about the funding request which would provide a homeless management information system (HMIS) for all ESG data collection throughout the City of Bridgeport.

Co-Chair Brantley asked where they are located to which Ms. Haley answered that their main office is in Hartford, but they work through Open Doors of Fairfield County and with Alpha Community Services in Bridgeport.

## **Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises**

Ms. Adrienne Wells came forward to speak about how his enterprise creates jobs in the recycling industry, and how provides employment through Goodwill. She said the funds would be used to lease

a compactor that would allow them to deconstruct mattresses for recycling, in addition to allowing them to retain more money from the sale of the mattress by-products.

Co-Chair Brantley asked how many people are employed to which the answer was fifteen. She then asked where the facility is located to which Ms. Wells answered in Iranistan Avenue. The Co-Chair then inquired about whether they pick up mattresses from the street to which the answer was in the negative, since they have no haulers and cannot pick up tossed-out mattresses.

### **Marrakech, Inc.**

Mr. Jake Orman came forward to speak about his academy which provides 4 un/under-employed individual in need of job training a program which stresses skills necessary to compete for jobs in the human/customer service fields. He said funds would be used for job training, counseling and supportive services.

Co-Chair Brantley asked how many people they are serving to which Mr. Orman answered there are 30 now in Bridgeport.

### **Groundwork Bridgeport**

Ms. Christina Smith came forward to speak about the Green Team revitalization project which employs 10 selected students to be active in their communities by empowering them to be agents of change in their physical environments.

Co-Chair Brantley asked how many students there are in the program to which Ms. Smith answered 10, from different high schools. Co-Chair Brantley asked if was a City program to which Ms. Smith replied that it is a non-profit and that it was located in the Arcade downtown. Council Member Salter, Sr. asked whether the students have to have skills to be chosen to which Ms. Smith answered in the negative, saying they are looking for students who want to improve their city. Council Member Salter, Sr. asked how their youngest students are to which Ms. Smith answered that it usually 16.

### **Groundwork Bridgeport**

A representative came forward to speak about the East Side Park Activation program which will use funding to provide an after-school program for local high school students that will result in the implementation of programming to activate East Side Parks. Students will be trained in community outreach.

*Council Member Castillo joined the meeting at 6:46.*

### **Second Stone Ridge**

A male representative came forward to speak about the funding request which will be used for security lighting and fencing due to security problems impacting its 200 residents.

Council Member Burns asked what they have now to which the representative answered the present condition is creating security problems.

## **Access Educational Services**

Ms. Gwendolyn Brantley came forward to speak about this project which includes exploration of STEM careers and development of the necessary skills needed to be successful. She said the funds would be used to provide services for up to 200 students.

Co-Chair Brantley asked what the difference is between STEM and STEAM to which the answer is that A stands for Art.

## **Cook and Grow**

A female representative came forward to speak about how this gardening, cooking and health project can help end obesity. She said funding will be used to provide gardening, harvesting, nutrition, and cooking techniques to about 60 low income individuals. Funds are also being requested for the purchasing of new appliances in addition to pot/pans and utensils.

Council Member Salter, Sr. asked how the individuals are recruited, and the representative answered that it was by word-of-mouth, their website, and on facebook.

## **East End Developers**

A male representative came forward to speak about this project, the funding for which would train 20 disadvantaged youth in asbestos-removal who would then clean the down town theaters and Savoy Hotel which are blighted and at-risk properties.

Co-Chair Brantley asked if this is a City project to which the representative answered that it was not, but he was trying to get the City on board. Council Member Salter, Sr. asked whether the necessary safety protection will be provided to which the answer was in the affirmative. Co-Chair Brantley asked what other funding they have to which the representative answered there is \$300,00 in the OPED account used for security and lighting, and then she asked whether they are seeking other funds to which the representative answered perhaps through the State. Co-Chair asked who would train the young workers to which the answer was EMGC and the Public Health Office.

## **Bridgeport Community Land Trust**

Mr. Bob Alstead came forward to speak about the Urban Garden Program which will manage and improve the gardens and the communities surrounding them. The target population are impoverished residents of distressed neighborhoods. Funds would be used for materials, tools, lumber, etc.

Co-Chair Brantley asked who runs this and mentioned Yale Street. Mr. Alstead said that someone else is supervising Yale Street. Co-Chair Brantley said that someone had to get water from her house because it was close to which Mr. Alstead answered that Aquarion did not pay the bill and then the City paid the bill. Co-Chair Brantley said that she wanted to talk further about this at a later time.

## **St. John's Family Center**

Mr. John Lenneman came forward to speak about this non-profit which serves at-risk families with free

programs and emergency security deposit/utilities assistance.

### **The Fitting Room**

Ms. Furahi Achebe came forward to speak about The Fitting Room's work, in partnership with Youthworks, to provide 20 jobs in the summer and 9 during the school year to train students in making professional quality videos. Funds would be used to support the program.

Council Member Burns asked how the youth are recruited to which Ms. Achebe answered through Youthworks.

### **The Kennedy Center**

A female representative came forward to speak about three Kennedy Center sites which are in need of repair. She said the funding would be used for renovations which would greatly improve the quality of life for their clients. The three sites are:

- Beacon Court which is in need of main bathroom renovations
- Carroll Apartments which is in need of energy efficiency improvements
- Probus House which is in need of main bathroom renovations

Co-Chair Brantley asked about other sources of funding to which the representative answered that funding for capital expenditures is difficult to come by. Co-Chair Brantley asked whether they had contacted the State to which the answer was in the affirmative.

### **Center for Family Justice**

Mr. Dale Holder came forward to speak about this agency which helps victims of domestic violence, through work and education, to make safe, productive choices which lead to self-sufficiency. Funds would be used to support this program.

## **City of Bridgeport Applications**

### **CoB Mayor's Conservation Corps**

Mr. Santiago came forward to speak about this program which will use the funds to provide about 30 youth with job readiness skills and summer employment. Twenty youth will canvass neighborhoods delivering energy-saving literature and ten will experience hands-on natural environment restoration. Ten youth will be offered part-time year round work.

### **CoB Lead Free Families**

No one came forward, but Mrs. Ginne-Rae Clay delivered some information about the Bridgeport Lead-free Families application for funding which is a match to a \$2.9 billion HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant.

## **CoB Youth Service Bureau**

A representative came forward to speak about the Youth Service Bureau Grant Match which serves as a required dollar-for-dollar match to the state-funded Youth Service Bureau Grant. As part of the required criteria, services that are offered include counseling, parenting, juvenile justice classes, and a whole host of critical social activities.

## **CoB OPED Storefront Improvement**

Mrs. Ginne-Rae Clay came forward to speak about this project which is requesting funding to focus on exterior improvements to retail property including grate removal and replacement, signage, awning and general repairs.

## **CoB Parks/Recreation**

Mr. Steve Laden came forward to discuss two applications from his department:

- Tree Planting: 250 trees of various species would be planted in low/moderate income areas through Bridgeport, funding for which would be used to implement the plan and would involve the Conservation Corps, residents and local businesses

Council Member Salter, Sr. asked what kind of trees to which Mr. Laden responded that it would be a variety depending upon the availability of space, utility lines, space for roots, etc. Council Member Burns asked whether the trees would be native species to which Mr. Laden answered that it would be a mix.

- Seaside Park Improvements: this is a plan to build a smaller, more intimate overhead pavilion than the one already existing at Seaside Park

Co-Chair Feliciano wanted to know why money was being put into the existing bath house and that it was a big project. Council Member Burns wanted to know if there would be any fee for use of the pavilion to which Mr. Laden said it had not yet been established.

## **Cob Health and Social Services**

Mrs. Albertina Baptista came forward to speak about five applications for funding:

- the emergency rental assistance program for which funding would be used to grant a one-time payment up to \$1,000 to cover rent/security, and which will allow families to maintain housing during an unstable time
- the emergency energy assistance program for which funding would be used to grant a one-time assistance payment to a household and about 56 households would be assisted
- the East Side Senior Center Rental for which funding would be used to provide the rental of space
- funding for supplies for the East Side Senior Center, e.g. paper goods, arts and crafts, games, puzzles, and Alzheimer's activities

- funding for the Healthy Stores Program which establishes healthy food stores in areas which are considered “food deserts” and which provide such items and fresh fruit and vegetables, juice instead of fruit drinks, baked instead of fried food, etc.

Co-Chair Brantley wanted to know if these stores will be city-side to which Mrs. Baptista answered that soon they will be in all areas.

### **CoB Department on Aging**

Mrs. Rosemarie Hoyt came forward to speak about this department's senior citizen program which provides social services, health, nutrition, transportation assistance, in addition to social, recreational, informational and fitness activities. Funding will be used to continue these services.

### **Beautify Bridgeport**

Ms. Angie Staltaro came forward to speak about this initiative which is requesting funding to purchase materials they will use to beautify and clean up various neighborhoods in Bridgeport.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Co-Chair Feliciano closed the public hearing at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nerina Kagan  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**PUBLIC HEARING APPLICANT LIST**  
**JUNE 22, 2016**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
Liberation Program	29,888
Blessed Sacrament Church	50,000
Refocus Outreach Ministry	96,536
Riverview Condo Association	187,000
Bridgeport Tabernacle	25,800
CT Coalition	30,601
Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises	109,636
Marrakech Academy	12,018
Groundwork Bridgeport: Green Team	42,010
Groundwork Bridgeport: East Side Park Program	45,244
Second Stone Ridge	27,649
Access Educational Services	15,000
Cook and Grow	8,900
East End Developers	126,000
Bridgeport Community Land Trust	9,500
St. John's Family Center	10,000
The Fitting Room	62,734
The Kennedy Center: Beacon Court	19,900
The Kennedy Center: Carroll Apartments	39,000
The Kennedy Center: Probus House	24,500
Center for Family Justice	25,000

City of Bridgeport Applications

CoB Mayor's Conservation Core	92,000
CoB Lead Free Families	25,000
CoB Dept. of Youth Services	43,500
CoB OPED/ONR: Storefront Facade Program	50,000
CoB Parks/Rec: Tree Planting	75,000
CoB Parks/Rec: Seaside Park Improvements	125,000
CoB Social Services: Emergency Rental Assistance	70,000
CoB Social Services Utility Shut-off Protection	15,000
CoB East Side Senior Center Rental	40,000
CoB East Side Senior Center Program Costs	5,000
CoB Health Dept. Healthy Corner Stores	20,000
CoB Dept. on Aging	50,789
CoB OPED/ONR Beautify Bridgeport	30,000